THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Bombay High Court is the High Court for the States of Maharashtra and Goa and the UTs of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. As per the information furnished by the Registry of the Bombay High Court, 363526 cases were pending in the Bombay High Court and its benches as on 30.04.2008. Out of these, 26087 cases were over 15 years old, 57360 cases were over 10 years but less than 15 years and 90534 cases were over 5 years but less than 10 years old. The oldest pendency reported is since 1982.

(c) As per the information received from the Bombay High Court, the measures under taken to effectively deal with the pendency of cases include introduction of latest technology in the nature of IT tools, classification and bunching of cases, allocation of the afternoon session exclusively for the purposes of final hearing of the matters and constitution of special benches. While preparing the board the matters are taken up chronologically subject to any specific direction by the court and in this view of the matter the old cases automatically get precedence.

Vacancies and delay in appointment of Judges

2238. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Supreme Court and High Court Judges appointed this year till date and the number of vacancies still existing court-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present system for the selection of Judges for these courts through a collegiums of Judges headed by the Chief Justice of India is causing serious delays in such appointments; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed by Government to reduce delays in such appointments so that no vacancy of Judges in these courts exists for more than three months?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A Statement showing the number of Supreme Court and High Court Judges appointed from 1.1.2008 till 17.12.2008 and the number of vacancies existing, court-wise, is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government has been reminding all consultees to follow time frame in giving their views.

Statement

The number of Judges appointed and court-wise existing vacancies

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Approved strength	Judges in position as on 17.12.2008	Vacancies	No. of Judges appointed from 1.1.2008 to 17.12.2008
1	2	3	4	5	6
A.	**Supreme Court of India**	26	24	02	05
B.	**High Courts**				
1.	Allahabad	160	73	87	13
2.	Andhra Pradesh	49	30	19	3

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bombay	75	60	15	12
4.	Calcutta	58	40	18	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	18	6	12	1
6.	Delhi	48	39	9	10
7.	Gauhati	24	20	4	—
8.	Gujarat	42	30	12	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	10	1	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	11	3	3
11.	Jharkhand	20	10	10	2
12.	Karnataka	41	40	1	5
13.	Kerala	38	25	13	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	43	39	4	3
15.	Madras	60	45	15	3
16.	Orissa	22	17	5	2
17.	Patna	43	24	19	1
18.	Punjab and Haryana	68	48	20	7
20.	Rajasthan	40	32	8	3
21.	Sikkim	3	1	2	—
22.	Uttarakhand	9	9	0	2
	Total	886	609	277	72

Backlog of court cases

2239. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India (CJI) has defended long breaks as judiciary is overworked and blames Government for setting up more courts to tackle backlog;

(b) whether total pendency of cases in Supreme Court picked up to 47,855 as per latest report;

(c) whether CJI has opened evening courts and wants their ambit widened;

(d) if so, whether Government has considered suggestions of CJI; and